

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface including:

a drainage layer including a first flexible backing sheet and a plurality of synthetic loop pile tufts, said loop pile tufts being tufted into said first flexible backing sheet in adjacent, parallel rows ~~attached to~~ and extending upwardly from said first flexible backing sheet; and

a water-permeable synthetic turf layer disposed above the drainage layer, said turf layer including a second flexible backing sheet and a plurality of synthetic ribbons extending upwardly from said second flexible backing sheet to provide a playing surface, said second flexible backing sheet being water-permeable, ~~attachment means for attaching said synthetic turf layer to said drainage layer;~~ and said turf layer including a layer of a granular infill material filling the voids between the ribbons in the synthetic turf layer;

wherein said adjacent, parallel rows of loop pile tufts of said drainage layer allow lateral drainage of water which drains from said synthetic turf layer, and further provide support and lateral stability to the synthetic turf layer disposed thereabove.

2 - 3 (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1

[[3]] wherein:

~~said tufts are arranged in parallel rows~~, said tufts are being tufted into the first flexible backing sheet at a gauge of about 1/4".

5. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 [[2]] wherein:

the height of the loop pile tufts lies between 3 and 9 mm.

6. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 5 wherein:

said height is about 5-7 mm.

7. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 [[2]] wherein:

said loop pile tufts are made of polypropylene, polyethylene or a polypropylene and polyethylene blend.

8. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 wherein:

said tuft material is the form of a yarn.

9. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 wherein:

said first flexible backing sheet is latex-backed.

10. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 wherein:

the first flexible backing sheet is less water-permeable than the second flexible backing sheet.

11. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 wherein:

the first flexible backing sheet has a water permeability of less than 10%.

12. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 11 wherein:

the first flexible backing sheet has a water permeability of about 3-5%.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 wherein:

said second flexible backing sheet is micro-perforated.

15. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 14 wherein:

~~said~~ perforation of said second flexible backing sheet is uniform.

16. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface including:

a drainage layer including a first flexible backing sheet and a plurality of synthetic loop pile tufts, said loop pile tufts being tufted into said first backing sheet in adjacent, parallel rows ~~attached to~~ and extending upwardly from said first backing sheet; and

a water-permeable synthetic grass layer disposed above the drainage layer, said grass layer including a second flexible backing sheet and a plurality of synthetic ribbons, representing blades of grass, said synthetic ribbons being attached to and extending upwardly from said second backing sheet, said second flexible backing sheet being water-permeable; ~~and attachment means for attaching said synthetic grass layer to said drainage layer~~

wherein said adjacent, parallel rows of loop pile tufts of said drainage layer allow lateral drainage of water which drains from said synthetic grass layer, and further provide support and lateral stability to the synthetic grass layer disposed thereabove.

17 - 18 (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16 ~~[[18]]~~ wherein:

~~said tufts are arranged in parallel rows,~~ said tufts are ~~being~~ tufted into the first flexible backing sheet at a gauge of about 1/4".

20. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16
[[17]] wherein:

the height of the loop pile tufts lies between 3 and 9 mm.

21. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 20
wherein:

said height is about 5-7 mm.

22. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16
wherein:

said first flexible backing sheet is latex-backed.

23. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16
wherein:

the first flexible backing sheet is less water-permeable than the second flexible
backing sheet.

24. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16
wherein:

the first flexible backing sheet has a water permeability of less than 10%.

25. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 24
wherein:

the first flexible backing sheet has a water permeability of about 3-5%.

26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16 wherein:

said second flexible backing sheet is micro-perforated.

28. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 27 wherein:

~~said~~ perforation of said second flexible backing sheet is uniform.

29. (new) A synthetic sports or recreation surface including:

a drainage layer including a first flexible backing sheet and a plurality of synthetic loop pile tufts, said loop pile tufts being tufted into said first backing sheet in adjacent, parallel rows and extending upwardly from said first backing sheet; and

a water-permeable synthetic grass layer disposed above the drainage layer, said grass layer including a second flexible backing sheet and a plurality of synthetic ribbons, representing blades of grass, said synthetic ribbons being attached to and extending upwardly from said second backing sheet, said second backing sheet being water-permeable;

wherein said drainage layer is constructed to allow a fraction of water draining from said synthetic grass layer to drain through said first backing sheet and a further

fraction of water draining from said synthetic grass layer to drain laterally along said drainage layer, and to further provide support and lateral stability to the synthetic grass layer disposed thereabove.